



Volume 20 | No. 3
**Spring/Summer,
2023**

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IE Newsletter

Institutional Ethnography Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Dear SSSP IE Division members,

I hope that it's beginning to feel like spring wherever you're reading this from! While the freezing rain falling outside my window might suggest otherwise, these are indeed the last couple of weeks of the winter semester! As we look ahead to spring and summer, there are several exciting opportunities for us to connect around IE work.

In May, the Research for Social Change Lab at Trent University will be hosting [The Dorothy Smith Open School and Anti-Conference](#). The two-day event will be an opportunity for graduate students and more seasoned institutional ethnographers to connect and discuss ongoing institutional ethnographic projects. Part of what makes this event so unique and exciting is the open school's dialogical nature - the space centres listening, learning, and the refinement of emerging ideas. To my mind, the most significant aspect of the event is that, as described on the event page, "most of the invited panelists for *this* Open School and Anti-Conference participated in the anti-conferences we organized at McGill when *they* were students." I think this speaks volumes about the tremendous mentorship and supportive relationships that have grown out of the IE Division at SSSP. I look forward to continuing this work together at the SSSP 2023 Annual Meeting.

As you might have seen by now, there is a fantastic slate of IE panels at [this year's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia](#). A huge thank you to everyone who has taken on the work of session organizers that makes our IE tract at SSSP possible. I'm also thrilled to announce that our IE workshop following the conference will return this year after a bit of a hiatus. Stay tuned for details in the months ahead! Be sure, also to check out the superb collection of IE panels hosted by the [IE Working Group of the International Sociological Association](#) at the upcoming World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne Australia in June!

As my term as the Division Chair of the IE Division comes to a close, I would like to thank you all for your support tremendous support and enthusiasm over the last couple of years. I am especially grateful to past Division Chairs LaNysha Adams, Lauren Eastwood, and Naomi Nichols for their generous guidance and to Gina Petonito for coordinating our newsletter. I am grateful for all the ways you made this a collective effort!

Looking forward to seeing you in Philadelphia!!

Colin

Call for a Paper for Sunday IE Session

Calling all IE'ers!

To keep session 107 in the SSSP Program, we need one more paper.

Here is the information:

Session title: Intertextuality, Theory, and the Social Organization of Knowledge

Description: Contributions to this session enhance understandings of pressing social problems by making visible the intertextual character of knowledge construction. By applying intertextuality to the study of social problems, these researchers make visible the forms of social coordination that produce and reproduce the social problems that activists are up against, and thus, can help provide the groundwork for meaningful interventions.

Time: Sunday, 12:30 to 2:10 PM

Full session information page 8 of this newsletter.

Interested? Email Colin Hastings at: c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca

Exciting IE Conference at Trent University

The Dorothy Smith Open School and Anti-Conference will be held at Trent University on May 10 and 11, 2023. The conference promised to be “two days of inquiry, reflection, and collaborative learning focused on Institutional Ethnography, the sociology for people developed by Dorothy Smith.” This conference is unlike other academic conferences because:

- 1) Anyone can attend
- 2) It is FREE
- 3) It is based upon a grassroots model Naomi Nichols developed with her graduate students that “resists the erosion of intellectual life and the normalization of academic performativity within the neoliberal university”
- 4) Day 1 will offer a combination of seminar and panel discussions
- 5) Day 2 will invite attendees to present about their engagement with Dorothy Smith’s work and to accept helpful feedback

To learn more please consult: <https://www.socialchangelab.ca/open-school>

Nordic IE Network Meeting in April

Finally, we can invite you all to a Nordic IE Network meeting again!

The 24th and 25th of April 2023, we invite you in the Nordic IE Network to a two-day meeting at Nord University, Bodø, Norway. The network meeting is conducted as a physical gathering from lunch – lunch. After lunch Tuesday we also offer a seminar/gathering for PhD candidates.

The overall meeting theme is “how, and whether we should and can, use other concepts/perspectives/theories in an institutional ethnographic study”.

Programme:

Monday April 24th

Location: Nord University, Campus Bodø, meeting room BODNVU135.

11.00 – 12.00 Welcome and lunch

12.00 – 12.30 Information about the Nordic IE network (Rebecca Lund). Handing over the "baton" to Nord University.

12.30 – 15.00 Presentations w/discussion

- 12.30 - 13.00: Linn-Marie L. Pedersen presents her PhD-project and her experiences with IE
 - 13.00 - 13.30: The EMER network (Explorations of Marginalised people's Everyday Resistance Network) (Ann-Torill T. and Rebecca L.)
 - 13.30 - 13.45: Break
 - 13.45 - 14.15: Janne Breimo and Ann-Christin E. Nilsen (digital) presents their introduction book in IE
 - 14.15 - 14.45: Ann-Christin E. Nilsen (digital) and May-Linda Magnussen/(Ann-Torill og Linn-Marie) talk about the anthology they are working on
- 14:45-15:00: Break
- 15.00 – 16.00 Activities in the network going forward (joint projects, new anthology, etc.?)

Evening: Dinner at restaurant

Tuesday April 25th

Location: Nord University, Campus Bodø, meeting room BODNVU135.

09.15 – 11.00 Paper seminar (possibility of digital participation)

11.00 – 12.00 Lunch

12.00 – 15.00 Gathering for PhD fellows

Please register to participate at the meeting here by April 15th: <https://nettskiema.no/a/314418>

PS. Production issues caused a delay in getting this newsletter out. If you would like to attend, please contact the conference organizers to see if you can still register. I also sent out an email to everyone about this conference on Thursday, April 13.

Welcome New Members

Nine new members have joined the IE Division since the publication of our last newsletter. Welcome all!

Noah Arjomand

Sharyn Frawley

Simona Gabriela Gavrila

Dara Gordon

Marianne Madoré

Maria O'Leary

Anna Rockhill

Jeffrey Sabo

Fredricka Romona Sabo

Members' News and Notes

Katherine E. Koralesky, Janet M. Rankin and **David Fraser** published a Jan. 2023 article titled "Animal sheltering: A scoping literature review grounded in institutional ethnography," in *Animal Welfare*, Vol. 32. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2022.4>.

Cheryl Zurawski published in 2023 an article titled “Trampling on Indigenous and Treaty Rights after R v. Stanley: “That’s What You Get for Trespassing” in *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, pp.1-20;
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423922000981>

SSSP 2023 Annual Meeting: Philadelphia, PA

Same Problem, Different Day:
Recognizing and Responding to Recurring Social Problems
August 18-20, 2023



Photo by [Nick Fewings](#) on [Unsplash](#)

IE Sessions

Friday, August 18

Time: 2:30 PM-4:10 PM
Session 021: **Institutional Ethnographies Across the Life Course**
Room: Freedom F
Sponsors: Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography
Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Naomi Nichols, Trent University

Description: This session includes papers conveying results of institutional ethnographies conducted at different times across the course of people's lives -- e.g., institutional ethnographies of elder care or schooling.

Papers:

"'Well, You Never Know!': Strategic Cultural Coaching and Uncertain Transmission to Educational Attainment," Ruo-Fan Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Institutional Ethnographies on Digital Technologies: Investigating and Developing Critical Digital Literacy Practices with High School Students," Aron Lee Rosenberg, McGill University

"Intersections of Education and Housing Access throughout a Life," Jayne Malenfant, McGill University

"The Transition Shock: Aging out of Child Welfare," Lauren Beard, The University of Chicago

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:10 PM

THEMATIC

Session 031: **Same Problems, Same Tired Terms: Investigating the Social Organization of Carceral Responses**

Room: Freedom F

Sponsor: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Institutional Ethnography

Organizers & Presiders: Miltonette Olivia Craig, Sam Houston State University and Christopher Dum, Kent State University

Description: This session brings together 5 papers that address the reach and impact of the carceral system. Papers cover topics such as reentry, community corrections, correctional reform, visitation, and the effects of criminal histories.

Papers:

"'They Do This Shit to Make You Feel Less Than Human': Systemic Racism and White Supremacy in the Visitation Process," Dylan Addison, University of Delaware

"There Goes the Neighborhood: Reentering Women, Neighborhood Dynamics, and Community Response in Grove Hall, MA," Julie Calvert LaBagnara, University of Massachusetts Boston

"Social Work Licensure and Applicants' Criminal Histories," Margo Campbell, Widener University and Casey Bohrman, West Chester University

"Intertwined: Religion and Social Science in the Pursuit of Correctional Reform," Nicole Kaufman, Ohio University

"Shifting the Carceral Landscape: The Move away from Incarceration and toward Community-based Services," Kayla M. Martensen, University of Illinois Chicago

Saturday August, 19

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Session 039: **Institutional Ethnographies of Health and Wellness**

Room: Independence D

Sponsors: Health, Health Policy; and Health Services; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer: Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

Presider: Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University

Description: Health and health care have long been key sites of inquiry for institutional ethnographers. In this session, researchers apply IE to make sense of some of the most pressing issues facing health care providers and people seeking health care today. Their analysis makes it possible to see how complex health systems are put together, and in so doing, can inform advocates' efforts to produce more equitable, accessible, and just health care services.

Papers:

"Abortion Access in New Brunswick and the Discourse of Choice," Maria O'Leary, Queen's University

"Examining the Social Organization of Musicians' Health Research through the Critical Lens of Institutional Ethnography," Jeffrey Sabo, University of Ottawa

"Exploring the Work of Growing up in a Larger Body: An Institutional Ethnographic Analysis of Young People's Talk," Alexa Rae Ferdinands and Kim D. Raine, University of Alberta

"Harvesting Health Work: Using IE to Explore Living Organ Donation," Matthew Strang, York University

"Making Work Visible within Constrained Social Contexts: An IE of Chronic Pain and Marginalization," Laura Connoy and Fiona Webster, Western University and Craig Dale, University of Toronto

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:10 PM

THEMATIC

Session 050: **New Directions in Institutional Ethnography**

Room: Independence D

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

Organizers: Janet M. Rankin, University of Calgary

Presiders: Paul Luken, University of West Georgia

Description: IE as method it is a central topic for this session. As well, papers focus on research in settings that have not previously been explicated by the tools of IE.

Papers:

"Healthwork among Low-income Women Living with Autoimmune Diseases: A Proposal for an Institutional Ethnography," Dara Gordon, University of Toronto

"Institutional Ethnography & Social Transformation? Mapping Ruling Relations from the Margins in Religious and Educational Institutions," Assata Zerai, University of New Mexico and Angeles Rubi Castorena, University of California, Irvine

"The Concept and Practice of Resistance in Institutional Ethnography," Ann-Torill Tørrisplass, Berit Irene Vannebo and Janne Paulsen Breimo, Nord University

"Using Institutional Ethnography to Analyze Animal Sheltering and Protection: Animal Protection Work," Katherine E. Koralesky, University of British Columbia, Janet M. Rankin, University of Calgary and David Fraser, University of British Columbia

"What Might Institutional Ethnographers Learn from Engels': The Condition of the Working Class in England," Paul Luken, University of West Georgia

Sunday August, 20

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM

THEMATIC

Session 084: **CRITICAL DIALOGUE: The Practicalities of Going Against the Grain**
Room: Freedom G
Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Youth, Aging, and the Life Course

*Organizer &
Presider/Discussant:* Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

Description: As researchers and activists committed to resisting systemic injustice, we often find ourselves in the position of “going against the grain” – meaning that our work conflicts with longstanding ideas, beliefs, and structures. In this session, contributors share their reflections on “going against the grain” inside and outside of the university. The critical dialogue opens up space for sharing tactics and envisioning alliances across social justice movements.

Papers:

“Institutional Ethnographising What Happens When You Go against the Grain in Your Own Career,”
Sophie Hickey, Independent Scholar

“Ribbons and Shadows: Gender and Coalition Challenges at Standing Rock,” Kandice Lynnette Grossman,
University of Missouri

“Socio-technical Changes and the Homelessness Industrial Complex,” Naomi Nichols and Sarah Cullingham,
Trent University

“The Sociological Economy of Navigating Black Wellbeing and Healing in a White Defined Healing Spaces,”
Brett Lesley Cumberbatch, University of Manitoba

“Tracing Lineages and the Everyday Work of Resisting Institutionalization: Honoring Community & Anti-Capitalist Labor in the Academy,” Jayne Malenfant, McGill University

“What Do You Mean By That? Meanings of Solidarity for Canadian Development Workers,”
Sophia Boutilier, Stony Brook University, SUNY

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:10 PM

THEMATIC

Session 094: **CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Activist Café: Community Activists and Scholars in Dialogue**
Room: Freedom G
Sponsor: Community Research and Development; Conflict, Social Action, and Change
 Institutional Ethnography

Organizers: Thomas Pineros-Shields, University of Massachusetts Lowell
 Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College and Central New York Community Foundation
Presider/Discussant: Thomas Pineros-Shields, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Description: This session reflects upon the roles of activist/scholar positionality and how these tensions and dynamics manifest within a range of social change approaches for racial justice and equity.

Papers:

“Decolonizing Climate Education,” Kier Blake, The New School, Start: Empowerment

“‘Power is in Community, if We Exercise It’: A National Participatory Action Research Project,”
Alexandra Pineros-Shields, Brandeis University and Erika Moldow, Independent Scholar

“Community Organizers, Vocabularies of Motive, and Accounting for Organizing Styles of Community-based Advocacy Organization,” C. Michael Awsumb, Southern Illinois University

"What Benefactors Want: How Moral Worth, Social Control, and Patronage Contributed to the Establishment of Wylie-Centre Industries, Inc.," Daniel McClymonds, University of Pittsburgh

"Building beyond Diversity and Creating Inclusive Spaces," Karolina Staros, Illinois Wesleyan University
"Using Institutional Ethnography for Anti-Racism Work," Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College and Central New York Community Foundation

"White Gatekeeping in the Antiracist Movement," Annie Ferguson, Arizona State University

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Session 107: **Intertextuality, Theory, and the Social Organization of Knowledge**

Room: Salon 5 & 6

Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Social Problems Theory

Organizers: Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

Jared Del Rosso, University of Denver

Presider: Jared Del Rosso, University of Denver

Discussant: Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo

Description: Contributions to this session enhance understandings of pressing social problems by making visible the intertextual character of knowledge construction. By applying intertextuality to the study of social problems, these researchers make visible the forms of social coordination that produce and reproduce the social problems that activists are up against, and thus, can help provide the groundwork for meaningful interventions.

Papers:

"Jane Addams's Use of Intertextuality--Theory and the Social Organization of Knowledge," Gillian "Jill" Niebrugge Brantley and Patricia M. Lengermann, The George Washington University

"Storytelling, Boundary Making, and Networks of Expertise on Abortion Policy: A Narrative Analysis of the Supreme Court Case of Dobbs v. Jackson," Rebecca M. Blackwell, University of South Florida and Marta C. Blackwell, Canadian Council for the Americas

"Texts and the Social Organization of UN Climate Policy," Lauren Eastwood, Centre for Global Cooperation Research